

In the Specification

Please amend the following paragraphs in the specification as shown:

[0010] - a guide that is fixed against movement in relation to the surface associated with the transducer locating portion such that, when the device is moved relative to the pipe, the guide surface being adapted such that, when the device is moved relative to the pipe, it can engage and traverse hindrances in the pipe to such relative device movement.

[0024] In a second aspect the present invention provides an apparatus for rotationally positioning one or more ultrasonic transducer supporting devices in proximity of a pipe to enable ultrasonic defect testing thereof, the apparatus comprising a carriage to which the or each device is mounted, and a means for rotating the or each device around at least part of the pipe's circumference whilst maintaining the or each device in proximity of the pipe; wherein the rotating means is in part incorporated into the carriage to enable the rotation of the or each device about the pipe.

[0025] Advantageously, the apparatus of the second aspect allows for ultrasonic inspection of pipe to be performed at a number of rotational positions around the pipe. In addition, the apparatus allows a pipe weld seam to be tracked by a transducer during pipe movement therepast (eg. where the seam is non-linear). For example, in a typical ultrasonic inspection of seam welded pipe, one or more ultrasonic transducers are initially located at or adjacent to a top dead centre of a pipe, with the seam weld also desirably being aligned with top dead centre. However, sometimes during pipe feed the seam weld is misaligned with top dead centre, or becomes misaligned because of pipe bowing or bending, or seam spiralling. Advantageously, the apparatus of the second aspect allows for ultrasonic inspection of pipe to be performed at different rotational positions that are in alignment with the misaligned seam weld. This allows for seam weld tracking and provides for a more efficient test procedure. Also, mounting of the or each device in a carriage provides for greater rotational positional control as described hereafter.

~~[0027] Preferably the or each device is mounted to a carriage and the rotating means is in part incorporated into the carriage to enable the rotation of the or each device about the pipe. Mounting of the or each device in a carriage provides for greater rotational positional control as described hereafter.~~

[0028] Typically one or more pairs of ultrasonic transducer supporting devices are mounted to the carriage and preferably the carriage is configured such that, as a given device pair is moved relative to the pipe (eg. longitudinally or rotationally), an essentially constant ~~the~~ distance between each device in the pair is maintained ~~substantially preserved~~. In this regard, as the devices engage surface irregularities etc. the distance between each device in a given pair essentially remains a constant (although there may be infinitesimal distance changes as one device in the pair raises or lowers in respect to the pipe, relative to the other). Configuring the carriage in this manner has the advantage of maintaining a constant ultrasonic beam path between the devices in the pair, and hence a high integrity of ultrasonic testing is achieved.

[0029] In this regard, in a third aspect, the present invention provides an apparatus for positioning one or more ultrasonic transducer supporting device pairs in proximity of a pipe to enable ultrasonic defect testing thereof, the apparatus comprising a carriage to which each device in a pair is pivotally mounted, and means for maintaining an essentially constant distance between each device in a given pair during differential pivoting of the devices in that pair with respect to the carriage in use.

[0030] ~~Preferably in the third aspect the one or more device pairs are mounted to a carriage and preferably the carriage includes the rotating means of the second aspect.~~